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(e) The Government approved the estimates in 1931 but the execution of the work is in abeyance.

(f) The estimates are to be revised as additional repairs and improvements are contemplated. The amounts of contribution will be fixed after the actual amounts of the estimates are known. The basis for the apportionment of contribution is the acreage belonging to the several interests irrigated by the channel—viz., ryotwari, zamindari and inam.

(g) The proposals of the Public Works Department have been sent to the Zamindar of the estate for acceptance and the local officers have been asked to expedite the settlement.

(h) The Uttumalai Estate is willing to pay the contribution. The Inamdar of Vellegal has refused to pay.

(i) Yes.

(j) The works contemplated are in the nature of (1) improvements and (2) repairs. The orders issued in 1931 directed the execution of the repairs forthwith as no question of contribution was involved therein. Now the estimates for both the improvements and repairs are undergoing revision as additional works are considered necessary. The repairs will be put in hand immediately after the revised estimate is sanctioned, and the improvements will be put in hand after the question of contribution is settled.

Mr. M. Devadasan:—" With reference to (d), may I know whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" Yes, Sir. I will call for the information."

Memorandum presented by the Tinnevelly District Association to the Executive Engineer regarding disafforestation in the Singampatti zamin hills.

* 479 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tinnevelly District Association presented a memorandum to the Executive Engineer at the Ryots' Conference held in Tinnevelly on 21st November 1932, about disafforestation in the Singampatti zamin hills and the State hills in the catchment basin of the upper portion of the Tambraparni river;

(b) whether the Executive Engineer promised to investigate the question;

(c) what action has been taken till now and what the result of the same is; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the report of the investigation?

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A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information on the subject except that they have perused the following paragraph in a report of the Irrigation Committee of the Tinnevelly District Association, dated 2nd January 1933, of which a copy has been received by Government:—

"*Paragraph XV.*—In the Ryots' Irrigation Conference the Executive Engineer was requested to investigate the question of disafforestation that was reported to be going on to a considerable and alarming extent primarily in the Singampati zamin hills and to a certain extent in the Government hills also forming the catchment basin of the upper portion of the Tambraparni river. He has agreed to do it. The Committee will keep itself in touch with the result of the investigation and consider if any further steps have to be taken."

(*d*) The question will be considered if a report is received.

Minor Irrigation

Maramat to the Rajakalmangalam tank and channel in the Tinnevelly district.

* 480 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Rajakalmangalam tank and channel in Tinnevelly district have had any general maramat at any time since the British advent;

(*b*) whether the ryots under that tank or under Sengulam lower down have petitioned the authorities concerned for the repair of the same;

(*c*) how long these petitions have been pending;

(*d*) whether the Government realize the imminence and urgency of the repairs prayed for;

(*e*) if so, what action the authorities have taken in the matter; and

(*f*) whether the tank and channel are under the Minor Irrigation Department or the Public Works Department?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government have not the information. No petitions have been received by the Government in recent years. A report has been called for.

(*f*) They are minor irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I know whether the Government propose to give any help for the repair of this anicut? They say that they have no information. Will they be pleased to call for it?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"We have called for a report, Sir."